

Striking Electricity!

32A

Crack! Here it comes! Get ready! After the loud boom of thunder comes the golden bolt of lightning. It reaches from the sky to the ground. Fortunately you are far enough away to enjoy the sight and not be harmed. Lightning is a beautiful yet dangerous weather event.

It is difficult to **predict** where lightning will touch the ground. That's why it's so important for you to protect yourself from it. Many people are injured by lightning each year.

When you hear thunder or see lightning, you should seek proper **shelter**. A building such as a house or a school is best. A vehicle with a metal roof is a good second choice. Stay there until thirty minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

There are ways to protect yourself once you're inside, too. Stay away from water, doors and windows.

Do not use the telephone. Turn off, unplug and stay away from items such as televisions and computers.

If you are stuck outside during a storm, follow these safety steps. Avoid water, high ground, open spaces and all metal objects. Do not stand underneath **canopies** or rain shelters. Move away from single trees. Crouch down and put your feet together. Stay four metres away from others.



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32B

Comprehension Questions

- Which of the following is the best lightning safety tip?
 - Crouch down.
 - Unplug items.
 - Seek shelter.
- If you are outside during a lightning storm, you should
 - go swimming in a pool.
 - find a car to get in.
 - sit under a tree.
- If you **predict**, you
 - make a good guess about what will happen.
 - tell someone to perform an important action.
 - hide from something dangerous.
- When you hear the rumble of thunder,
 - lighting will not be a danger.
 - lightning is likely to follow.
 - the lightning is still far away.
- What would happen if everyone followed these safety tips?
 - Lightning would never touch the ground.
 - The safety tips would no longer be needed.
 - Fewer people would be injured by lightning.